LETTER FROM LONDON.

London, November 15, 1850. To the Editor of the National Era :

The building for the great Industrial Exhibit tion goes steadily up, and not very many weeks will transpire before the shell at least will be com-

Prince Albert came up from Windsor to view it, a week ago to-day, and was much pleased, it is said, with the progress which the workmen have mide. On dit, that the Queen has designed a carpet, and Prince Albert executed several pieces of sculpture, for the exhibition. Her celebrated K h-i-noor diamond is to be exhibited in the gem department. This is setting the example for the People in a most worthy manner, by Royalty. These comparatively trifling occurrences add very much to the popularity of Her Majesty and the Prince. I doubt if ever there sat upon a throne a woman who was more enthusiastically

loved than Victoria Guelph. I intended to have noticed in my last letter the surce of the British Anti-State and Church Association, held in the London Tavern, yesterday week night. Samuel Morley, Esq., one of the reformers in England, was called to the chair, and the Secretary read the Annual Report on behalf of the Executive Committee. The Rev. John Burnet made one of his speeches, which are always overflowing with wit and good humor. He was followed by Charles Gilpin, who made an ardent speech against Church opinion, and exposed the present "cuckoo cry of 'no Popery." But Edward Miall made the speech of the evening. It was a masterly effort in favor of individunlism against ecclesiasticism, and appeared to be appreciated by his large audience.

The Society is now in the third year of its existence, and has already grown to be one of the most powerful reformatory associations in the Kingdom. It expects the coming winter to act with increased vigor, through lectures and the

The Churchmen are doing their best to so direct the present excitement against Catholicism that it shall add to the strength of State-Church-

There can be no doubt that, under the peculiar circumstances, the Pope's conduct was an insult to England; all parties agree to this; but the State Church is a living insult to all dissenters, and something beside a mere insult, too, for it robs them of their goods to support a system which they abhor; therefore the dissenters will not join heartily in the "no Popery!" cry of the Churchmen, for it is a sham-crv, got up to give the hunting-parsons a longer lease of the fat things which they enjoy at present!

Last Saturday was "Lord Mayor's Day" here, and was celebrated with more than usual life, and "pomp, and circumstance." From an early hour in the morning, until late at night, the streets were choked up with masses of people and carriages. The railway companies ran excursion trains, so that hundreds and thousands of the inhabitants of the country and provincial towns were here to partake in the gayeties of the occa-

The display this year was entirely different from that which has heretofore taken place. Everything shadowed forth peace, and prosperity, and happiness, while before, there have been nonsensical displays, something after the style of Gog and Magog in the Guildhall. The character of Peace was represented in the procession by a beautiful young lady, dressed in white, and reclining upon a white palfrey. In her train, were representatives of America, Europe, and Asia. Commerce was magnificently represented, and, upon the whole, the show was gorgeous, though it seemed as if the occasion did not justify the extraordinary display.

the inhabitants of London.

The procession, after passing through severs streets in the city, took State barges at Blackfri ars Bridge, and rowed up to the Whitehall. At night, it returned to the Bridge, where it was joined by the Foreign Ambassadors, the nobility, and gentry, when the whole company proceeded to the Guildhall, where they were entertained by the Lord Mayor to a Grand Banquet.

Lord John Russell was received with pplause, in reference to his recent letter to the Sishop of Durham, and in his speech made allu-sions to it, and the manner in which England had conducted herself in this crisis. The Foreign Minister, Lord Palmerston, made a speech, as well as the Marquis of Lansdowne, both of which

Mr. Lawrence of Boston, our Ambaseador, an swered the toast of the "Foreign Ambassadors, and was well received. He ventured again pledge "the twenty-two million of countrymen

ad spoke well of the liberties of the city of Lon don. He was loudly cheered, especially when he uttered sentiments of peaceful import and of national friendship. Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence are this week on

visit to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

A large meeting was held in Wrexham or Tuesday evening, in behalf of the cause of Peace The admission was by ticket only, and the price of tickets was quite high, and yet there were two thousand persons present. The Rev. Mr. Richard, secretary of the Peace Society, made a speech in which he detailed some of the proceedings of the friends of Peace on the Continent. Joseph Sturge also spoke, but Mr. Cobden made the great speech of the occasion. It is clear from his speech that he sympathizes with the Schleswig Holsteiners, and blames the English Governmen for the course it took in reference to the dispute Mr. Paxton, the inventor of the "Crysta Palace" for the Grand Exhibition, an evening of wo since delivered an address before the South of Arts, Lord Overstone in the chair, upon the invention, the progress of the building, &c. It is reported in the papers, and is of great interest.

I am informed by pretty good authority that the admission fee to the Glass Palace during the first month of the exhibition will be five dollars pe eigners who perhaps, will not stay in England more than one month, and if here almost purposeto see the Exhibition, would like to see it every day. The second month the price will be much lay. The second month the price will be mose, and the third entirely free. This will make it fair for Englishmen, but not for foreigners who may chance to be here the first month of the exhition, but not the fourth, and who would no feel like giving five dollars a day for the sight However, the matter is not settled, as yet, though

Quite an excitement was raised in Paris for last few days, because of a supposed plot of the Society of Dix Decembre, to assassinate Gene-ral Changarnier and M. Dupin, the President of Assembly. The President of the Club de nies the plot, but many circumstances look bad against it. At last the President's message has ome to hand. After the election of President ad been gone through with by the Assembly, in th M. Dupin received 383 votes out of a total.
M. Baroche read the message.

wealthy a chance to see the great

without being inconvenienced by the pres

It commences as coolly as a railway company's port, and from top to bottom has a business-like be sure, the President alludes to the revolu in the manner of one who censures, but he is redingly careful. He confesses that he has en obliged (1) to remove from office 421 mayors sides disbanding the National Gaards in 153 was, and doing many other unpleasant things, of which were unpleasant, but which be was discall to do. He talks largely about Algeria, when agriculture encouraged, and exhorts to mee and industry. The land forces have been uced from 451,000 men, and 93,754 horse, to 000 men, and 87,000 horse, and a further re

ion is to take place.
closing, he merely hints towards a revision the Constitution, but it is easy from a few sen-aces to see what he wants, as he tells about " the amount of stability guarantied by the pres

The fact is, that the President dare not boldly what he wants. Circumstances have been canet him of late, and he now plays the part of he hypocrite. Give him the power, and his disasting selfishness will leap forth; but as mat-

stand now, it is wiser to conceal it.

uring the past week, no one has known exact and the Hessian and Holstein affairs. The and the Hessian and Holstein shairs. The sudden and unlooked-for death of Count Brandenburg, who was at the head of the peace party in Prussia, cast a gloom over Europe. At once the Prussian army was put on a war footing, ostensibly because Prussia had been ordered, in the name of the Confideration, to withdraw her

troops from Hesse. By a royal order, all Prussian subjects belonging to the army were recalled from any foreign State. This order will strike a fatal blow at the poor Holstein army, as it will deprive it of its most valuable officers. War has med to be a certainty; but at this moment seemed to be a certainty; there is a brighter prospect of peace. Prussia, with all her bluster, is gradually withdrawing her troops to the frontiers of Hesse, and it is expected that she will soon evacuate Cassel. This is the prospect at present, and the Hessians and Holsteiners, I am afraid, will not fare so well as

they deserve.

When the Prussian troops entered the Elect rate, they received no shouts of welcome, for the Hessians knew they were not the real friends of liberty. Perhaps the people of Prussia are sincere friends of freedom; but the rulers and the army are not. No one can tell yet what will be the result of the disputes; the next news may be of battle and its horrors, but I think not. A great ball was held last evening, in the Guild-hall, for the benefit of Polish exiles. The Lord

Mayor of London was there, and Lord Dudley Stuart, and hundreds of others. The Times tried its best to cry it down, but could not do it, for it was largely attended.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Fellow-citizens of the Senate,

and House of Representatives:

Being suddenly called, in the midst of the last Being suddenly called, in the mast of the has session of Congress, by a painful dispensation of Divine Providence, to the responsible station which I now hold, I contented myself with such communications to the Legislature as the exigency of the moment seemed to require. The country was shrouded in mourning for the loss of its ven erated Chief Magistrate, and all hearts were pen-etrated with grief. Neither the time nor the ocetrated with grief. Neither the time nor the oc-casion appeared to require or to justify, on my part, any general expression of political opinions, or any announcement of the principles which would govern me in the discharge of the duties to the performance of which I had been so unexpect-edly called. I trust, therefore, that it may not be deemed inappropriate, if I avail myself of this op-portunity of the re-assembling of Congress to make known my sentiments, in a general manner, in regard to the policy which ought to be pursued by the Government, both in its intercourse with foreign nations, and in its management and ad-

inistration of internal affairs. Nations, like individuals in a state of nature, are equal and independent, possessing certain rights, and owing certain duties to each other, arising from their necessary and unavoidable relations; which rights and duties there is no com mon human authority to protect and enforce Still, there are rights and duties, binding in morals, in conscience, and in honor, although there is no tribunal to which arinjured party can appeal but the disinterested judgement of a

Among the acknowledged rights of nations is that which each possesses of establishing that form of Government which it may deem most conducive to the happiness and prosperity of its own citizens; of changing that form, as circumstances may require; and of managing its internal affairs according to its own will. The people of the United States claim this right for themselves, and they readily concede it to others. Hence i becomes an imperative duty not to interfere in the Government or internal policy of other nations; and although we may sympathize with the unfortunate or the oppressed, everywhere, in their struggles for freedom, our principles forbid us from taking any part in such foreign contests. We make no wars to promote or to prevent suc-We make no wars to promote or to prevent suc-cessions to thrones; to maintain any theory of a balance of power; or to suppress the actual Gov-ernment which any country chooses to establish for itself. We instigate no revolutions, nor suffer any hostile military expeditions to be fitted out in the United States to invade the territory or provinces of a friendly nation. The great law of morality ought to have a national, as well as a personal and individual, application. We should act towards other nations as we wish them to act towards us; and justice and conscience should instead of mere power, self-interest, or the desire of aggrandizement. To maintain a strict neutral ity in foreign wars, to cultivate friendly relations I never before saw such crowds of people, save to reciprocate every noble and generous act, and when two or three years ago, the great Chartist to perform punctually and scrupulously every ligation—these are the duties owe to other States, and by the performance of which we best entitle ourselves to like treatment from them; or if that, in any case, he refused, we can enforce our own rights with justice and a clear conscience.

In our domestic policy, the Constitution will be my guide; and in questions of doubt, I shall look for its interpretation to the judicial decisions of that tribunal which was established to expound , and to the usage of the Government, sanctiv the acquiescence of the country. I regard all its provisions as equally binding. In all its parts it is the will of the people, expressed in the most ut agents to carry that will into effect. Every power which it has granted is to be exercised for the public good; but no pretence of utility, no honest conviction, even, of what might be expedient, can justify the assumption of any power not granted. The powers conferred upon the Gov-ernment, and their distribution to the several departments, are as clearly expressed in that sacred instrument as the imperfection of human language will allow; and I deem it my first duty, not to question its wisdom, add to its provisions, vade its requirements, or nullify its commands.

Upon you, fellow citizens, as the representatives of the States and the people, is wisely devolved the legislative power. I shall comply with my duty in laying before you, from time to time, any information calculated to enable you to discharge your high and responsible trust, for the benefit of

ur common constituents.

My opinions will be frankly expressed upon the leading subjects of legislation; and if, which I-do not anticipate, any act should pass the two Houses of Congress which should appear to me unconsti-tutional, or an encroachment on the just powers of other departments, or with provisions hastily adopted, and likely to produce consequences injurious and unforeseen, I should not shrink from th duty of returning it to you, with my reasons, for your further consideration. Beyond the due per-formance of these constitutional obligations, both my respect for the Legislature and my sense propriety will restrain me from any attempt to control or influence your proceedings. With you is the power, the honor, and the responsi-bility of the legislation of the country.

The Government of the United States is a lin ited Government. It is confined to the exercis of powers expressly granted, and such others as may be necessary for carrying those powers into effect; and it is at all times an especial duty to guard against any infringement on the just rights of the States. Over the objects and subjects in-trusted to Congress, its legislative authority is su-preme. But here that authority ceases, and every itizen who truly loves the Constitution, and desires the continuance of its existence and its blessings, will resolutely and firmly resist any interference in those domestic affairs which the Constitution has clearly and unequivocally left to the exclusive authority of the States. And every such citizen will also deprecate useless irri-tation among the several members of the Union, and all reproach and orimination tending to alienate one portion of the country from another. The beauty of our system of Government con-sists, and its safety and durability must consist, in avoiding mutual collisions and encroachments, and in the regular separate action of all, while

each is revolving in its own distinct orbit. The Constitution has made it the duty of th President to take care that the laws be faithfully executed. In a Government like ours, in which all laws are passed by a majority of the representatives of the people, and these representatives are chosen for such short periods that any injurious or obnavious laws. or obnoxious law can very soon be repealed, it would appear unlikely that any great numbers should be found ready to resist the execution of the laws. But it must be borne in mind that the country is extensive, that there may be local in terests or prejudices rendering a law odious it one part which is not so in another, and that the one part which is not so in another, and that the thoughtless and inconsiderate, misled by their passions or their imaginations, may be induced madly to resist such laws as they disapprove. Such persons should recollect that, without law, there can be no real practical liberty; that, when law is trampled under foot, tyranny rules, whether it appears in the form of a military despotism or of popular violence. The law is the only sure protection of the weak, and the only efficient restraint upon the strong. When impartially and faithfully administered, none is beneath its protection, and none above its control. reath its protestion, and none above its control You, gentlemen, and the country, may be assured that to the utmost of my ability, and to the ex tent of the power vested in me, I shall at all time

tent of the power vested in me, I shall at all times and in all places take care that the laws be faithfully executed. In the discharge of this duty, solemnly imposed upon me by the Constitution and by my oath of office, I shall shrink from no responsibility, and shall endeavor to meet events, as they may arise, with firmness, as well as with prudence and discretion.

The appointing power is one of the most delicate with which the Executive is invested. I regard it as a sacred trust, to be exercised with the sole view of advancing the prosperity and happiness of the people. It shall be my effort to ele-

vate the standard of official employment, by se-lecting for places of importance individuals fitted for the posts to which they are assigned, by their known integrity, talents, and virtues. In so ex-tensive a country, with so great a population, and where few persons appointed to office can be known to the appointing power, mistakes will sometimes unavoidably happen, and unfortunate appointments be made, not with standing the great-cest care. In such cases, the power of removal est care. In such cases, the power of removal may be properly exercised; and neglect of duty or malfeasance in office will be no more tolerated in individuals appointed by myself than in those appointed by others.

I am happy in being able to say that no unfavorable change in our foreign relations has taken

orable change in our foreign relations has taken place since the message at the opening of the last session of Congress. We are at peace with all nations, and we enjoy in an eminent degree the blessings of that peace, in a prosperous and grow-ing commerce, and in all the forms of amicable national intercourse. The unexampled growth of the country, the present amount of its population, and its ample mesus of self protection, as-sure for it the respect of all nations; while it is trusted that its character for justice, and a regard to the rights of other States, will cause that respect to be readily and cheerfully paid.

A convention was negotiated between the Uni-ted States and Great Britain, in April last, for facilitating and protecting the construction of a ship canal between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, and for other purposes. This instrument has since been ratified by the contracting parties, the exchange of ratifications has been effected, and proclamation thereof has been duly made. In addition to the stipulations contained in this convention, two other subjects remain to be accomplished between the contracting powers.

First, the designation and establishment

free port at each end of the canal. Second, an agreement fixing the distance from the shore within which belligerent maritime operations shall not be carried on. On these points there is little doubt that the two Governments

will come to an understanding.

The company of citizens of the United States who have acquired from the State of Nicaragua the privilege of constructing a ship canal between the two oceans, through the territory of that State, have made progress in their preliminary arrangements. The treaty between the United States and Great Britain, of the 19th of April last, above referred to, being now in operation, it is to be hoped that the guaranties which it offers will be sufficient to secure the completion of the work with all practicable expedition. It is obvious that this result would be indefinitely postponed, if any other than peaceful measures, for the purpose of harmonizing conflicting claims to territory in that quarter, should be adopted. It will consequently be my endeavor to cause any further negotiations on the part of this Government, which may be requisite for this purpose, to he so conducted as to bring them to a speedy and successful close.

Some unavoidable delay has occurred arising

from distance and the difficulty of intercourse between this Government and that of Nicaragua; but as intelligence has just been received of the appointment of an Enroy Extraordinary and Min-ister Plenipotentiary of that Government, to reside at Washington, whose arrival may soon be expected, it is hoped that no further impediments will be experienced in the prompt transaction of

business between the two Governments.

Citizens of the United States have undertaken the connection of the two oceans by means of a railroad across the 1sthmus of Tehuantepec, under grants of the Mexican Government to a citizen of that Republic. It is understood that a thorough survey of the course of the communication is in preparation, and there is every reason to expect that it will be prosecuted with characteristic en-ergy, especially when that Government shall have consented to such stipulations with the Governconsented to such stipulations with the Government of the United States as may be necessary to impart a feeling of security to those who may embark their property in the enterprise. Negotiations are pending for the accomplishment of that object; and a hope is confidently entertained that, when the Government of Mexico shall become duly sensible of the advantages which that country cannot fail to derive from the work, and learns that the Government of the United States desires that the right of governients of Mexico in the that the right of sovereignty of Mexico in the Isthmus shall remain unimpaired, the stipulations referred to will be agreed to with alacrity.

By the last advices from Mexico, it would ap-pear, however, that that Government entertains strong objections to some of the stipulations which the parties concerned in the project of the railroad deem necessary for their protection and security. Further consideration, it is to be hoped, or some n of terms, may ye ferences existing

Fresh instructions have recently been given to is prosecuting the subject with promptitude and

the payment of claims of citizens of the United States against that Government, have not yet resulted in a formal treaty, yet a proposition made by the Government of Portugal, for the final adjustment and payment of those claims, has recently been accepted on the part of the United States. It gives me pleasure to say that Mr. Clay, to whom the negotiation on the part of the United States had been intrusted, discharged the duties of his appointment with ability and discretion, acting always within the instructions of his Government. It is expected that a regular convention will be immediately negotiated for carrying the agreement between the two Governments into effect.

The commissioner appointed under the act of Congress for carrying into effect the convention with Brazil, of the 27th of January, 1849, has en-tered upon the performance of the duties imposed upon him by that act. It is hoped that those du-ties may be completed within the time which it prescribes. The documents, however, which the imperial Government, by the third article of the

convention, stipulates to furnish to the Government of the United States, have not yet been received. As it is presumed that those will be essential for the correct disposition of the claims, it may become necessary for Congress to extend the period limited for the duration of the commission. The sum stipulated by the fourth article of the convention to be paid to this Government has been received.

The collection in the ports of the United States of discriminating duties upon the vessels of Chili and their cargoes has been suspended, pursuant to the provisions of the act of Congress of the 24th of May, 1828. It is to be hoped that this measure will impart a fresh impulse to the commerce be-tween the two countries, which, of late, and especially since our acquisition of California, has, to the mutual advantage of the parties, been much augmented.

Peruvian guano has become so desirable an ar

ticle to the agricultural interest of the United States, that it is the duty of the Government to employ all the means properly in its power for the purpose of causing that article to be imported into the country at a reasonable price. Nothing will be omitted on my part towards accomplish-ing this desirable end. I am persuaded that, in oving any restraints on this traffic, the Peruvian Government will promote its own best in-terests, while it will afford a proof of a friendly disposition towards this country, which will duly appreciated.

The treaty between the United States and His

Majesty the King of the Hawaiian Islands, which has recently been made public, will, it is believed, have a beneficial effect upon the relations between

the two countries.

The relations between those parts of the Island of St. Domingo, which were formerly colonies of Spain and France, respectively, are still in an uncertied condition. The proximity of that island to the United States, and the delicate questions involved in the existing controversy there, render it desirable that it should be permanently and speedily adjusted. The interests of humanity and of general commerce also demand this; and as intimations of the same sentiment have been re ceived from other Governments, it is hoped that some plan may soon be devised to effect the object in a manner likely to give general satisfaction. The Government of the United States will no ail, by the exercise of all proper friendly office to do all in its power to put an end to the destruc-tive war which has raged between the different parts of the island, and to secure to them both the benefits of peace and commerce.

I refer you to the report of the Secretary of the Treasury for a detailed statement of the finances The total receipts into the Treasury, for the year ending 30th of June last, were forty-seven million four hundred and twenty-one thousand seven hundred and forty-eight dollars and ninety cents, (\$47,421,748.90)

The total expenditures during the same period were forty-three million two thousand one hundred and sixty-eight dollars and ninety cents, (\$43,009,168,90) The public debt has been reduced, since th last annual report from the Treasury Depart-ment, four hundred and ninety-five thousand two

hundred and seventy-six dollars and seventy-ni cents, (\$495,276.79)

By the 19th section of the act of 28th Jan By the 19th section of the act of 28th January, 1847, the proceeds of the sales of the public lands were pledged for the interest and principal of the public debt. The great amount of those lands subsequently granted by Congress for military bounties, will, it is believed, very nearly supply the public demand for several years to come, and but little reliance can therefore be placed on that hitherto fruitful source of reve-

Aside from the permanent annual expenditures

must be provided for within the next two fiscal years. It is most desirable that these accruing demands should be mot without resorting to new loans.

and policy of raising a large portion of revenue for the support of Government, from duties on goods imported. The power to lay these duties is unquestionable, and its chief object, of course, is to replenish the Treasury. But if, in doing this, an incidental advantage may be gained by encouraging the industry of our own citizens, is our duty to availourselves of that advantage.

is our duty to avail ourselves of that advantage.

A duty laid upon an article which cannot be produced in this country—such as tea or coffee—adds to the cost of the article, and is chiefly or wholly paid by the consumer. But a duty laid upon an article which may be produced here, stimulates the skill and industry of our own country to produce the same article, which is brought try to produce the same article, which is brought into the market in competition with the foreign article, and the importer is thus compelled to reduce his price to that at which the domestic article can be sold, thereby throwing a part of the duty upon the producer of the foreign article. The continuance of this process creates the skill and invites the capital which finally enable us to produce the article much cheaper than it could have been procured from abroad, thereby benefiting both the producer and the consumer at home. The consequence of this is, that the artisan and the agriculturist are brought together, each affords a ready market for the produce of the other, the whole country becomes prosperous; other, the whole country becomes prosperous; and the shillity to produce every necessary of life renders us independent in war as well as in peace A high tariff can never be permanent. It will cause dissatisfaction, and will be changed. It ex-

cludes competition, and thereby invites the investment of capital in manufactures to such ex-cess, that when changed it brings distress, bankruptcy, and ruin, upon all who have been misled by its faithless protection. What the manufac-turer wants is uniformity and permanency, that he may feel a confidence that he is not to be ruin-ed by sudden changes. But to make a tariff uniform and permanent, it is not only necessary that the law should not be altered, but that the duty should not fluctuate. To effect this, all duties should be specific, wherever the nature of the article is such as to admit of it. Ad valorem duties fluctuate with the price, and offer strong tempta-tions to fraud and perjury. Specific duties, on the contrary, are equal and uniform in all ports, and at all times, and offer a strong inducement to the importer to bring the best article, as he pays no more duty upon that than upon one of inferior quality. I therefore strongly recommend a modi-fication of the present tariff, which has prostrated some of our most important and necessary manufluctuate with the price, and offer strong temptasome of our most important and necessary manufactures, and that specific duties be imposed sufficient to raise the requisite revenue, making such discrimination in favor of the industrial pursuits of our own country as to encourage home produc-fion, without excluding foreign competition. It is also important that an unfortunate prevision in the present tariff, which imposes a much "nigher only upon the raw inherial that enters into our manufactures than upon the manufac-tured article, should be remedied.

The papers accompanying the report of the Secretary of the Treasury will disclose frauds at-tempted upon the revenue, in variety and amount so great as to justify the conclusion that it is impossible, under any system of ad valorem duties levied upon the foreign cost or value of the article, to secure an honest observance and an effectual administration of the laws. The fraudulent devices to evade the law, which have been detected by the vigilance of the appraisers, leave no room to doubt that similar impositions not discovered, to a large amount, have been successfully practiced since the enactment of the law now in force. This state of things has already had a prejudicial influence upon those engaged in foreign commerce. It has a tendency to drive the honest trader from the business of importing, and to throw that important branch of employ-ment into the hands of unscrupulous and dishonest men, who are alike regardless of law and the obligations of an oath. By these means the plain intentions of Congress, as expressed in the law, are daily defeated. Every motive of policy and duty, therefore, impel me to ask the carnest attention of Congress to this subject. If Congress should deem it unwise to attempt any important

As before stated, specific duties would, in my evil; but, if you should not concur in this view, then, as a partial remedy, I beg leave respectfully of the article abroad as a means of determini value here, the correctness of which invoice in many cases impossible to verify, the law be so changed as to require a home valuation or appraisal, to be regulated in such manner as to give ns far as practicable, uniformity in the several

There being no mint in California, I am inormed that the laborers in the mines are compelled to dispose of their gold dust at a large dis-count. This appears to me to be a heavy and un-just tax upon the labor of those employed in ex-tracting this precious metal; and I doubt not you will be disposed, at the earliest period possible, to relieve them from it by the establishment of a mint. In the mean time, as an assayer's office is established there, I would respectfully submit for your consideration the propriety of authorizing gold bullion, which has been assayed and stamp ed, to be received in payment of Governmen dues. I cannot conceive that the Treasury would suffer any loss by such a provision, which will at once raise bullion to its par value, and thereby save (if I am rightly informed) many millions of dollars to the laborers, which are now paid in brokerage, to convert this precious metal into earnings is a heavy tax, and every effort should be made by the Government to relieve them from so great a burden.

More than three-fourths of our population are

engaged in the cultivation of the soil. The com-mercial, manufacturing, and navigating interests are all, to a great extent, dependent on the agri-cultural. It is therefore the most important in-terest of the nation, and has a just claim to the fostering care and protection of the Government, so far as they can be extended consistently with the provisions of the Constitution. As this can-not be done by the ordinary modes of legislation, I respectfully recommend the establishment of an Agricultural Bureau, to be charged with the duty of giving to the leading branch of American in-dustry the encouragement which it so well de-serves. In view of the immense mineral resources of our country, provision should also be made for the employment of a competent mineralogist and chemist, who should he required, under the direc-tion of the head of the bureau, to collect specimens of the various minerals of our country, and to ascertion, by careful analysis, their respective elements and properties, and their adaptation to useful purposes. He should also be required to examine and report upon the qualities of different soils, and the manures best calculated to improve their productiveness. By publishing the results of such experiments, with suitable explanations, and by the collection and distribution of rare seeds and plants, with instructions as to the best system of cultivation, much may be done to pronote this great national interest

In compliance with the act of Congress, passed on the 23d of May, 1850, providing, among other things, for taking the Seventh Census, a superintendent was appointed, and all other measuradopted which were deemed necessary to ins the prompt and faithful performance of that duty. The appropriation already made will, it is believed, be sufficient to defray the whole expense of the work; but further legislation may be no work; but further legislation may be horeastly in regard to the compensation of some of the mar-shals of the Territories. It will also be proper to make provision by law, at an early day, for the publication of such abstracts of the returns as the public interests may require.

The unprecedented growth of our Territories on the Pacific in wealth and population, and the consequent increase of their social and commercial relations with the Atlantic States, seem to reader it the duty of the Government to use all its constitutional power to improve the means of intercourse with them. The importance of opening "a line of communication, the best and most expeditious of which the nature of the country will admit," between the valley of the Mississippi and the Pacific, was brought to your notice by my pre-decessor, in his annual message; and as the rea-sons which he presented in favor of that measure still exist in full force, I beg leave to call your at-tention to them, and to repeat the recommendations then made by him.

The uncertainty which exists in regard to the validity of land titles in California is a subject which demands your early consideration. Large bodies of land in that State are claimed under bodies of land in that State are claimed under grants said to have been made by authority of the Spanish and Mexican Governments. Many of these have not been perfected, others have been revoked, and some are believed to be fraudulent. But, until they shall have been judicially investigated, they will continue to retard the settlement and improvement of the country. I therefore respectfully recommend that provision be made by law for the appointment of commissioners to examine all such claims, with a view to their final adjustment.

priety of extending, at an early day, our system of land laws, with such modifications as may be

tion of the public debt, amounting to eight million seventy-five thousand nine hundred and eighty-seventy-five thousand nine hundred and eighty-six dollars and fifty-nine cents, (\$5,075,086.59,) eral lands of California will, of course, form an partment a sum equivalent to the postage of which exception to any general system which may be adopted. Various methods of disposing of them have been suggested. I was at first inclined to favor the system of leasing, as it seemed to promise the largest revenue to the Government, and to afford the best security against monopolies; but further reflection, and our experience in lessing the lead mines and selling lands upon credit, have brought my mind to the conclusion that there would be great difficulty in collecting the rents, and that the relation of debtor and creditor, between the citizens and the Government, would be attended with many mischievous consequences. I therefore recommend that, instead of retaining the mineral lands under the permanent control of the Government, they be divided into small parcels and sold, under such restrictions, as to quantity and time, as will insure the best price, and guard most effectually against combinations of

capitalists to obtain monopolies.

The annexation of Texas and the acquisition of California and New Mexico have given increased importance to our Indian relations. The various tribes brought under our jurisdiction by these en-largements of our boundaries are estimated to embrace a population of one hundred and twenty-

Texas and New Mexico are surrounded by powerful tribes of Indians, who are a source of constant terror and annoyance to the inhabitants. Separating into small predatory bands, and alvays mounted, they overrun the country, devas ways mounted, they overrun the country, devas-tating farms, destroying crops, driving off whole herds of cattle, and occasionally murdering the inhabitants or carrying them into captivity. The great roads leading into the country are infested with them, whereby travelling is rendered ex-tremely dangerous, and immigration is almost en-tirely arrested. The Mexican frontier, which, by eleventh article of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, we are bound to protect against the In-dians within our border, is exposed to these incursions equally with our own. The military force stationed in that country (although forming a large proportion of the army) is represented as entirely inadequate to our own protection and the fulfilment of our treaty stipulations with Mexico. The principal deficiency is in cavalry, and I recommend that Congress should, at as early a period as practicable, provide for the raising of one or For further suggestions on this subject, and

others connected with our domestic interests and the defence of our frontier, I refer you to the report of the Secretary of the Interior and of the secretary of War.

I commend also to your favorable consideration the suggestion contained in the last-mentioned re-port, and in the letter of the General-in-chief, relative to the establishment of an asylum for the relief of disabled and destitute soldiers. This subject appeals so strongly to your sympathies, that it would be superfluous in me to say any-The navy continues to give protection to our

commerce and other national interests in the diftion of a single steamer on the Northern lakes, the vessels in commission are distributed in six different squadrons. The report of the head of that Department will

exhibit the services of these squadrons, and of the several vessels employed in each, during the past year. It is a source of gratification, that while they have been constantly prepared for any hos-tile emergency, they have everywhere met with the respect and courtesy due as well to the dignity as to the peaceful dispositions and just purp of the nation.

The two brigantines accepted by the Government from a generous citizen of New York, and placed under the command of an officer of the navy, to proceed to the Arctic seas in quest of the British commander, Sir John Franklin, and his companions, in compliance with the act of Congress approved in May last, had, when last heard from, penetrated into a high northern latitude; but the success of this noble and humane enterprise is yet uncertain.

I invite your attention to the view of our pres-

ent naval establishment and resources presented in the report of the Secretary of the Navy, and the suggestions therein made for its improvement, together with the naval policy recommended for changes in the system of levying duties at this session, it will become indispensable to the protection of the revenue that such remedies as in the trade of the East, by means of our recent setthe judgment of Congress may mitigate the evils complained of, should be at once applied.

As before stated, specific duties

As a specific duties

the two branches of the service, presented to the Executive by certain resolutions of the House of Representatives, at the last session of Congress, have been submitted to a board of officers in each

pected at an early day.

I also earnestly recommend the enactment of a law authorizing officers of the army and navy to be retired from the service, when incompetent for its vigorous and active duties, taking care to make suitable provision for those who have faithfully served their country, and awarding distinctions by retaining in appropriate commands those who have been particularly conspicuous for gallantry and good conduct. While the obligation of the country to maintain and honor those who, to the exclusion of other pursuits, have devoted them-selves to its arduous service, this obligation should not be permitted to interfere with the efficiency of

the service itself. I am gratined in being able to state, that the estimates of expenditure for the navy in the enming year are less, by more than one million of dollars, than those of the present, excepting the appropriation which may become necessary for the construction of 'a dock on the coast of the Pa-cific, propositions for which are now being conand on which a special report may be expected early in your present session.

There is an evident justness in the suggestion

There is an evident justness in the suggestion of the same report, that appropriations for the naval service proper should be separated from those for fixed and permanent objects, such as building docks and navy yards, and the fixtures attached; and fro n the extraordinary objects, under the care of the Department, which, however important, are not essentially naval.

A revision of the code for the government of the navy seems to require the immediate consideration of Congress. Its system of crimes and punishments had undergone no change for half a century, until the last session, though its defects have been often and ably pointed out; and the abolition of a particular species of corporal pun-ishment, which then took place, without providing any substitute, has left the service in a state of defectiveness, which calls for prompt correction. I therefore recommend that the whole subject be revised without delay, and such a system estab-lished for the enforcement of discipline, as shall be at once humane and effectual.

The accompanying report of the Postmaster General presents a satisfactory view of the epe-rations and condition of that Department. At the close of the last fiscal year, the length of the inland mail routes in the United States (not embracing the service in Oregon and California) embracing the service in Oregon and California, was one hundred and seventy-eight thousand six hundred and seventy-two miles; the annual transportation thereon, forty-six million five hundred and forty-one thousand four hundred and twenty-three miles; and the annual cost of such transportation two million seven hundred and twenty-four thousand four hundred and twenty-six deliars. six dollars.

The increase of the annual transportation over that of the proceeding year was three million nine hundred and ninety-seven thousand three hundred and fifty-four miles, and the increase in cost was three hundred and forty-two thousand

four hundred and forty dollars.

The number of post offices in the United States, on the first day of July last, was eighteen thousand four hundred and seventeen—being an increase of sixteen hundred and seventy during the preceding year.

The gross revenues of the Department for the

fiscal year ending June 30, 1850, amounted to five million five hundred and fifty-two thousand nine hundred and seventy-one dollars and forty-eight cents, including the annual appropriation of two hundred thousand dollars for the franked matter of the Departments, and excluding the foreign postages collected for and payable to the British Government. The expenditures for the same period were five

million two hundred and twelve thousand nine hundred and fifty-three dollars and forty-three cents—leaving a balance of revenue over expendi-tures of three hundred and forty thousand and eighteen dollars and five cents. I am happy to find that the fiscal condition of

the Department is such as to justify the Post-master General in recommending the reduction of our inland letter postage to three cents the single letter when prepaid, and five cents when not prepaid. He also recommends that the pre-paid rate shall be reduced to two cents whenever the revenues of the Department, after the reduc-tion, shall exceed its expenditures by more than from, shall exceed its expenditures by more than five per cent, for two consecutive years; that the postage upon California and other letters sent by our ocean steamers shall be much reduced; and that the rates of postage on newspapers, pamph-lets, periodicals, and other printed matter, shall

ing out of the Treasury to the Post Office De-partment a sum equivalent to the postage of which it is deprived by such privileges. The last is supposed to be the preferable mode, and will, if entirely, so nearly supply that deficiency as to make any further appropriation that may be found necessary so inconsiderable as to form no obstacle to the proposed reductions.

I entertain no doubt of the authority of Con-

gress to make appropriations for leading objects in that class of public works comprising what are

usually called works of internal improvement

This authority I supposed to be derived chiefly

from the power of regulating commerce with for-eign nation, and among the States, and the power

of laying and collecting imposts. Where com-merce is to be carried on, and imposts collected, there must be ports and harbors, as well as wharves and custom-houses. If ships laden with walardes and custom nouses. If ships, laten with valuable cargoes, approach the shore, or sail along the coast, lighthouses are necessary at suitable points for the protection of life and property. Other facilities and securities for commerce and navigation are hardly less important; and those clauses of the Constitution, therefore, to which I have referred, have received from the origin of the Government a liberal and beneficial co tion. Not only have lighthouses, buoys, and beacons, been established, and floating lights maintained, but harbors have been cleared and improved, piers constructed, and even breakwaters for the safety of shipping, and sea walls to protect harbors from being filled up and rendered useless by the action of the ocean, have been erected at very great expense. And this construction of the Constitution appears the more reasonable from the consideration, that if these works, of such evident importance and utility, are not to be accomplished by Congress, they cannot be accomplished at all. By the adoption of the Constitution the several States voluntarily parted with the power of collecting duties of impos their own ports; and it is not to be expected that they should raise money, by internal taxation, direct or indirect, for the benefit of that commerce, the revenues derived from which do not, either in whole or in part, go into their own reasuries. Nor do I perceive any difference between the power of Congress to make appropriations for objects of this kind on the ocean and the power to make appropriations for similar objects on lakes and rivers, wherever they are large enough to bear on their waters an extensive traffic. The magnificent Mississippi and its tributaries, and the vast lakes of the North and the Northwest, appear to me to fall within the exercise of the power, as justly and as clearly as the Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. It is a mistake to re-gard expenditures judiciously made for these ob-jects as expenditures for local purposes. The position or site of the work is necessarily local, but its, utility is general. A ship canal around the falls of St. Mary of less than a mile in length, though local in its construction, would yet be national in its purpose and its benefits, as it would remove the only obstruction to a navigation of more than a thousand miles, affecting several States, as well as our commercial relations with Canada, So, too, the Breakwater at the mouth of the becamare is erected, not for the exclusive benefit of the States bordering on the bay and river of that name, but for that of the whole coastvise navigation of the United States, and, to a considerable extent also, of foreign commerce. It ship be lost on the bar at the entrance of a Southern port for want of sufficient depth of water, it is very likely to be a Northern ship; and if a steamboat be sunk in any part of the Missis-sippi, on account of its channel not having been properly cleared of obstructions, it may be a boat belonging to either of eight or ten States. I may

ome navigable river. In fulfiling our constitutional duties, fellow-citizens, on this subject, as in carrying into effect all other powers conferred by the Constitution, we should consider ourselves as deliberating and acting for one and the same country, and bear constantly in mind, that our regard and our duty are due, not to a particular part only, but to the

add, as somewhat remarkable, that among all the

thirty-one States, there is none that is not, to a greater or less extent, bounded on the ocean, or

the Gulf of Mexico, or one of the great lakes, o

I therefore recommend that appropriations be made for completing such works as have been already begun, and for commencing such others as may seem to the wisdom of Congress to be public and general importance. The difficulties and delays, incident to the set-

tlement of private claims by Congress amount in many cases to a denial of justice. There is reason'to apprehend that many unfortunate creditors The questions in relation to rank in the army of the Government have thereby been unavoidapublic character, that it is impossible it should give much attention to mere private claims, and their accumulation is now so great that many claimants must despair of ever being able to ob-tain a hearing. It may well be doubted whether Congress, from the nature of its organization, is properly constituted to decide upon such cases. It is impossible that each member should examine the merits of every claim on which he is compelled to vote; and it is preposterous to ssk a judge to decide a case which he has never heard. Such decisions may, and frequently must, do in-justice either to the claimant or the Government, and I perceive no better remedy for this growing evil than the establishment of some tribunal to adjudicate upon such claims. I beg leave, therefore, most respectfully, to recommend that pro-vision be made by law for the appointment of a commission to settle all private claims against the United States; and, as an ex parte hearing must in all contested cases be very unsatisfactory, I also recommend the appointment of a Solicitor, whose duty it shall be to represent the Government before such commission, and protect it against all illegal, fraudulent, or unjust claims,

which may be presented for their adjudication.

This District, which has neither voice nor vote in your deliberations, looks to you for protection and aid, and I commend all its wants to your favorable consideration, with a full confidence that you will meet them not only with justice, but with liberality. It should be borne in mind that in this city, laid out by Washington, and conse-crated by his name, is located the Capitol of our nation, the emblem of our Union, and the symbol of our greatness. Here also are situated all the public buildings necessary for the use of the Gov-ernment, and all these are exempt from taxation. place attractive to the people of the whole Repub-lic, and convenient and safe for the transaction of the public business and the preservation of the public records. The Government should therefore bear a liberal proportion of the burdens of all necessary and useful improvements. And, as nothing could contribute more to the health, comfort, and safety of the city, and the security the public buildings and records, than an abundant supply of pure water, I respectfully recommend that you make such provisions for ob taining the same as in your wisdom you may deem

proper.

The act passed at your last session, making certain propositions to Texas for settling the disputed boundary between that State and the Territory of New Mexico, was, immediately on its passage, transmitted by express to the Governor of Texas, to be laid by him before the General Assembly for its agreement thereto. Its receipt was duly acknowledged, but no official information has yet been received of the action of the General Assembly thereon; it may, however, he very soon expected, as, by the terms of the proposition sub mitted, they were to have been acted upon on or before the first day of the present month. It was hardly to have been expected that the

series of measures passed at your last session, with the view of healing the sectional differences thich had sprung from the slavery and Territo rial questions, should at once have realized their beneficent purpose. All mutual concession in the nature of a compromise must necessarily be unwelcome to men of extreme opinions. And though without such concessions our Constitution could not have been formed, and cannot be permanently sustained, yet we have seen them made the subject of bitter controversy in both sections the subject of bitter controversy in both sections of the Republic. It required many months of discussion and deliberation to secure the concurrence of a majority of Congress in their favor. It would be strange if they had been received with immediate approbation by people and States, prejudiced and heated by the exciting controversies of their representatives. I believe those measures to have been required by the circumstances and condition of the country. I believe they were necessary to allay asperities and animosities that were rapidly alienating one section of the country from another, and destroying those fraterial sentiments which are the strongest supternal sentiments which are the strongest sup-ports of the Constitution. They were adopted in the spirit of conciliation, and for the purpose of conciliation. I believe that a great majority of our fellow-citizens sympathize in that spirit and that purpose, and in the main approve, and are prepared in all respects to sustain, these cunctprepared in all respects to sustain, these enact-ments. I cannot doubt that the American people, bound together by kindred blood and common traditions, still cherish a paramount regard for the Union of their fathers; and that they are ready to rebuke any attempt to violate its rity, to disturb the compromises on which it is based, or to resist the laws which have been en-acted under its authority.

lets, periodicals, and other printed matter, shall be modified, and some reduction thereon made.

It cannot be doubted that the proposed reductions will, for the present, diminish the revenues of the Department. It is believed that the deficiency, after the surplus already accumulated shall be exhausted, may be almost wholly met, either by abolishing the existing privileges of the may be presumed, from the opposition which they

all encountered, that none of those measures was free from imperfections, but in their mutual de pendence and connection they formed a system of compromise, the most conciliatory, and best for the entire country, that could be obtained from

conflicting sectional interests and opinions.

For this reason I recommend your adherence to the adjustment established by those measures, until time and experience shall demonstrate the necessity of further legislation to guard against evasion or abuse.

By that adjustment we have been rescued from

the wide and boundless agitation that surrounded us, and have a firm, distinct, and legal ground to rest upon. And the occasion, I trust, will justify me in exhorting my countrymen to rally upon and maintain that ground as the best, if not the only, means of restoring peace and quiet to the country, and maintaining inviolate the integrity of the Union. And now, fellow-citizens, I cannot bring this

communication to a close without invoking you to join me in humble and devout thanks to the Great Ruler of nations for the multiplied blessings which he has graciously bestowed upon us. His hand so often visible in our preservation, has stayed the pestilence, saved us from foreign wars and domestic disturbances, and scattered plenty throughout the land.

Our liberties, religious and civil, have been maintained; the fountains of knowledge have all been kept open, and means of happiness widely spread and generally enjoyed, greater than have allen to the lot of any other nation. And, while deeply penetrated with gratitude for the past, let us hope that His all-wise Providence will so guide our counsels as that they shall result in giving satisfaction to our constituents, securing the peace of the country, and adding new strength to the united Government under which we live.

MILLARD FILLMORE WASHINGTON, December 2, 1850.

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That Slavery is repugnant to Natural Right, the Law of hristianity, the Spirit of the Age, and the essential nature of our Republican Institutions:

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That Slavery can have no lawful being in Territory and he exclusive jurisdiction of the United States : That Congress is bound to exclude it from all Territory now belonging or that may hereafter belong to the United

That the American Union, as the bond of Peace, the organ one Language and one Civilization, the medium of Free Trade, among the numerous States and Territories stretch as the Kefuge of suffering millions from the Ol4 World, and a Safeguard against its Ambition and Intrigue, is of priceess value to the Cause of Human Progress; and that there s enough intelligence and virtue in its members to extinguish Slavery, the single cause that disturbs its harmonies,

That the Federal Constitution quebt to be so amended as o place the election of President in the hands of the Peole, directly, and to limit his term of office to four years naking him thereafter ineligible; and to be still further mended so as to give to the People of the several States the lection of their United States Senators, changing the term

mpairs its energies, alloys its benefits, and threatens its

of office from six to four years: That the Post Office Department ought to be separated rom the Chief Executive, the Postmaster General and all the local Postmasters being elective by the People, and the ower of removal for just and sufficient cause lodged in the

hands of the Postmaster General: That postage on all newspapers, of a certain size, for all distances, should be one cent; on all letters, under half an ounce, for all distances, two cents prepaid; that the franking privilege should be abolished; and negotiations be instituted or the purpose of securing free exchanges within reasonable limits, between the newspapers of Europe and the United States, and a reduction to the lowest point possible in the ostage on letters passing between foreign co

That the public lands should be held as a trust for the ben efit of the People of the United States, to be granted in limited quantities to actual settlers who are landless: That the homestead ought to be exempt from sale or ex-

That restrictions on commerce among the several State and between all nations, ought to be removed: That Congress ought to make due appropriations for im-provements demanded by the interests of commerce with

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